



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington 25, D. C.
December 11, 1957

LEONARD ERHARD

On December 2, 1957, Joseph Anthony Gwyer, 2806 Terrace Road, Southeast, Washington, D. C., advised of having read an article in "Time" magazine issue of October 28, 1957, which featured on its cover a picture of Ludwig Erhard captioned "Germany's Economics Minister Ludwig Erhard" and an article beginning on page twenty-seven titled "Engineer of a Miracle."

Mr. Gwyer furnished his comments regarding what he considered to be certain specific deficiencies in the "Time" magazine article on Ludwig Erhard. He stated that the article omits altogether Erhard's association with the Nazi's during 1939 and 1940, and also omits that period of his life during World War II.

The "Time" article in question pays tribute to West Germany's economic growth, its basic stability of consumer prices in a world-wide global sea of inflationary troubles and credits Ludwig Erhard as being the "philosopher and engineer of the miracle." Approximately three pages are devoted to Erhard's life, family, economic and political successes.

Mr. Gwyer stated he knew Ludwig Erhard during the period November, 1939 to May, 1940, and met him personally on two occasions. He stated he met Erhard at the home of his "uncle" Stanislaw Swiandzinski, the "half-brother" of his father, at Kolo on the Warta River in Poland. Gwyer explained that this locality, Kolo on the Warta, was an area which was annexed to the Third Reich and that Ludwig Erhard was charged with the economic development and exploitation of this area on behalf of the Nazi's; that when Erhard moved into the area he used Stanislaw Swiandzinski's house and evicted Stanislaw Swiandzinski and family therefrom. Gwyer said Erhard at the time wore the uniform of the German Forest Service. Gwyer's meeting with Erhard was related as

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casual, the first time merely a perfunctory meeting, while on the second occasion he spoke with Erhard about a half-hour on various conversational matters.

Geyer stated he merely desired to bring attention to Erhard's affiliation, with the Nazi's during the period November, 1939 - May, 1940 and the lack of personal or historical data concerning Erhard during the period of World War II. Geyer also stated that the German's "Who's Who" Eleventh Edition, Berlin, Arani Verlags, 1961, page one hundred thirty-two and one hundred thirty-three which contains the name and personal data of Ludwig Erhard fails to make mention of that period of his life during 1943 - 1945.

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